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Arnold Schwarzenegger

Secretary
Victoria L. Bradshaw

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C A L I F O R N I A

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Signs Bill to Increase California's Minimum Wage

Sacramento—Today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 1835, which will increase California's minimum wage from its current \$6.75 per hour to \$8 per hour by January 1, 2008.

"Under Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership, California's economy has grown dramatically, with nearly 600,000 new jobs created since he took office," said Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Victoria Bradshaw. "The time is definitely right for an increase in the state's minimum wage."

This is the first minimum wage increase in California since 2001 and it will take place in two steps. On January 1, 2007 the minimum wage will increase by 75 cents to \$7.50. This will be followed by a 50 cent increase on January 1, 2008 where it will reach \$8.00 per hour.

"This is the first time that a California Governor has worked with the Legislature to enact an increase in the state minimum wage," said Bradshaw. "Prior increases have come about either through action of the Industrial Welfare Commission or the electorate."

As a result of the legislative agreement Governor Schwarzenegger reached with the Legislature, the increase will affect more than 1 million Californians who currently earn minimum wage, putting more than \$2.5 billion dollars into the pockets of some of the hardest-working people in our state.

LWDA's Department of Industrial Relations will continue to assist businesses and employer groups on how to comply with the minimum wage increase, and to help minimum wage workers understand their rights through various educational workshops and seminars. DIR conducts for employers and workers. Minimum wage information will also be available in several languages including Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese, among others. In addition, information will be accessible by visiting the DIR website at www.dir.ca.gov/dlse.

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